



CITY OF HALLOWELL

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To: Hallowell City Council and Mayor Walker

RE: Orton Family Foundation Heart & Soul Informational Meeting in Hallowell

On Tuesday, January 7 the Hubbard Free Library hosted an informational meeting about the Orton Family Foundation Heart & Soul community development program (H&S). The meeting, hosted by H&S program coach Jane Lafleur, was attended by 28 people plus staff and guest speaker Representative Thom Harnett, a former Gardiner Councilor and Mayor. The program included a presentation from Ms. Lafleur followed by a question and answer session. The meeting was covered this week in an article in the Kennebec Journal:

<https://www.centralmaine.com/2020/01/08/hallowell-residents-get-first-look-at-community-development-program/>

In Gardiner, H&S functioned as a convening ground to address long-term challenges and help the community talk about what made their city unique and attractive, and these discussions both informed their comprehensive planning process and generated an expression of values and goals that continue to guide City Council decision-making on challenging issues. A H&S program in Hallowell might take on the same role, or could be shaped differently depending on citizen interest. You have received a readiness guide from Jane Lafleur via email, along with an inquiry as to whether Hallowell would like to do a readiness session, including a community “self-assessment checklist” as the next step. You may receive contact from constituents weighing in on whether or not to proceed with next steps, and how the City might participate.

If Hallowell does continue exploring H&S, there will at some point be a request for a resolution of support from Council, recognizing that the program is underway and clarifying what, if any, official role the City might take in supporting the 18 month to two year program cycle. Please feel welcome to share any questions, inquiries, concerns, or expressions of interest in the program to me at your convenience.
